



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2007

2007-2008 Legislative Committee Report

The WFCA Legislative Committee met several times during the interim. After extensive review and discussion, the committee has initiated the following legislative proposals to be introduced or reintroduced for the short (60-day) session:

- The **number one priority** issue is the introduction of legislation to eliminate the transfer of assets to a city after an annexation has occurred and to clarify in growth management statutes that fire districts are also a provider of fire services under GMA. The WFCA will also be exploring tax collection and mitigation issues in the event of a city annexation of fire district taxing boundaries.
- Reintroduction of House Bill 1367 which would raise public works bid limits from \$2,500 up to \$10,000.
- Advocate, through the Rural Fire District Capital Assistance Legislative Study, the creation of a state program to assist small, rural fire districts in building new or remodeling existing fire stations.

The WFCA/WFC legislative workshop and luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 24

The issues outlined below will be closely monitored as they are introduced in 2008. They are as follows:

- Proposal from county auditors to eliminate certain special election duties. The WFCA will meet with county auditors to further discuss this issue.
- Haz Mat funding—support.
- Fire safe cigarettes legislation—support.
- Monitor all property tax proposals introduced for cost impacts to fire districts.
- Review and oppose any expansion of city annexation statutes.
- Support protection of fire district firefighter jobs in the event of city annexation through automatic transfers to the city.

A complete legislative report along with position papers will be sent to all commissioners by January 4. Please note that the first legislative report will be posted on the WFCA website at www.wfca.wa.gov on Friday, January 25.

See Legislative on Page Five

2008 WFCA Board of Directors

The following individuals were elected at conference to serve on the 2008 WFCA Board:

OFFICERS

President:

Joe Dawson, Spokane 1

Vice President:

Bill Gates, S. King Fire & Rescue

Secretary-Treasurer:

Les Riel, Yakima 4

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1:

Sharon Colby, Spokane 3

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A Message from the President by Joe Dawson



It was a pleasure to see so many of you at conference in the Tri-Cities in October. We had over 400 people registered. What a great turnout.

Steve Ford's keynote address was very inspirational and relaxing at the same time. He set a very positive tone for the conference. Jim Whitt's wrap-up address on Saturday was a great close to a great conference. Jim once again charmed us with his Oklahoma wit. Additionally, the mini-sessions were well attended and well received.

Hats off to the folks from Region 2 who hosted the conference. They treated us not only to a fine conference but to some gratefully accepted Southeastern Washington hospitality.

It has been a sincere pleasure to serve as your WFCA President in 2007 and I am honored that you have allowed me to serve in that capacity again in 2008. My con-

gratulations go out to Bill Gates, South King Fire and Rescue, on his election to the position of Vice President of the WFCA for 2008. Congratulations also to Les Riel, Yakima 4, on his election to the position of WFCA Secretary-Treasurer for 2008.

2007 was a banner year for our association with the passage of the Levy-Lid Lift Bill. But we cannot rest on our laurels. 2008 will be an equally challenging year...

Also to be congratulated are Sharon Colby, Dennis Bjork, Steve Lich and Robert Skaggs for their re-election as regional directors of their respective regions. And last but not least, congratulations go to Mick McKinley, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue, for his election to the position of Region 9 Director.

Mick takes over from Dave Wheeler, Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue. Dave chose not to run for re-

election to the Board of Directors of the WFCA. His calm, reassuring manner and dedication to task will be missed by the Board. We wish Dave well and feel confident that Mick will fill his shoes in a manner expected of those who have the privilege to serve on the WFCA Board of Directors.

2007 was a banner year for our association especially with the passage of the Levy-Lid Lift Bill. But we cannot rest on our laurels. 2008 will be an equally challenging year for us. We have several issues we will be championing in the upcoming legislative session. You will find those issues enumerated on page one of this issue of the *Fireline*.

Speaking of legislation, please mark your calendar for the annual joint WFCA/WFC legislative day on capitol hill on Thursday, January 24, 2008. The legislative day is much earlier in the session this year so we should be able to have more substantive dialog with our legislators than was the case last year.

WFCA Board Biographies

Welcome to a new feature in *Fireline*...WFCA Board biographies.

From time to time, Board biographies will be included in *Fireline* to better acquaint you with the commissioners who give of their time, energy and expertise to manage your state association. This month, we feature two Board members, Les Riel and Steve Lich.

LES RIEL

Les Riel was elected to serve

as the 2008 WFCA Secretary-Treasurer at the recent conference in Pasco. He will assume the post on January 1.

In November, Les was elected to his third term as fire commissioner of Yakima 4 East Valley where he plans to continue his commitment to safety, service and financial responsibility.

Les began his service on the WFCA Board first as Region 4 Alternate (1999-2004), later as

See Biography on Page Four

ON THE WEB

The Washington Fire Commissioners Association and the Washington Fire Chiefs Joint Legislative Day is Thursday, January 24, 2008...for complete details, log on to the WFCA website at www.wfca.wa.gov.



2007 WFCA Conference Recap

The WFCA's 59th conference was held October 25-27, 2007 at the Pasco Red Lion Hotel. The following is a recap of the conference.

MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2007 Management Excellence Award participants for their great work. Winners include:

Category A

(Budget of \$1 million +)

1st Place:

Graham Fire & Rescue
(Pictured)



Kathy Hale, Bob Skaggs, Gerald Gustafson, Gary Franz, Verne Pierson

2nd Place: South King Fire & Rescue

3rd Place: Cowlitz County FPD 5

Category B (Budget of \$500,000 - \$999,999): No entries

Category C (Budget of \$250,000 - \$499,999)

1st Place: Skagit County FPD 13

Category D (Budget under \$250,000)

1st Place: Jefferson County FPD 5

2nd Place: Jefferson County FPD 4

3rd Place: Mason County FPD 18

COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION

Commissioner recognition awards, honoring service for 10, 15, 20 and 25 years, were presented as follows:

10 Year Award (Honorary Life Membership)

John Crouse (Adams 7), **Jerry Bragg** (Chelan 5 & King 10), **Dorothy L. Albrecht** (Grays Harbor 16), **Tom Smith** (Island 5/Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue), **Richard A. Gaines** (King 10/Eastside Fire & Rescue), **Gary C. Bollinger** (King 26 & S. King Fire & Rescue), **Bob Muhleman** (Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue), **Michael Tomasheck** (Lewis 12), **Mike Cathey**, **Greg Hanon** and **Don Hayford** (Pierce 1), **Cheryl Bylin** and **Brenda Harter** (Pierce 20 & 22), **Roger Coleman** (Pierce 22), **Albert Olson** (San Juan 3), **Peter Whiting** (Thurston 5), **David F. Williams, Jr.** (Whatcom 4), **Mike Murphy** and **Al Saab** (Whatcom 7).

15 Year Award

Bill Wolfinbarger (Asotin 1), **William Hansen** (Clark 11 & Jefferson 3), **Steve Lich** (Camano Island Fire & Rescue), **Tom Downer** (Pacific 1), **Christine Buddrius** (Pend Oreille 6), **Gary W. Hartloff** (Central Pierce Fire & Rescue), **Robert E. Skaggs** (Pierce 21/Graham Fire & Rescue), **Rick Kuss** and **Karlyne McGinnis** (Pierce 22), **Sharon Colby** (Spokane 3), **James R. Lahde** (Spokane 4).

20 Year Award

Bill Wolfinbarger (Asotin 1), **Gary W. Hartloff** (Central Pierce Fire & Rescue), **Robert F. Lansberry** (Spokane 4).

25 Year Award

Byron Allen and **Perry Blankenship** (Adams 7), **Bill Wolfinbarger** (Asotin 1), **Jack D. Hensley** (Spokane 4), **Paul**

McBride (Spokane 10), **Gerald D. Metzger** (Whatcom 7), **Winton Wefer** (Whatcom 9).

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Four very special commissioners received appreciation plaques for their dedication to the fire service. Awards were presented to: **Linn "Penny" Dollar, Jr.**, Clark 11, for his 45 years in the fire service; **Ben Dunkelberger**, Thurston 13, for his 30 years in the fire service; **Jerry Jacobs**, Cowlitz 5, for his 37 years as a fire commissioner; and **Winton Wefer**, Whatcom 9, for his 50 years as a fire commissioner. Congratulations and thank you to all four commissioners!

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

The association would like to thank the following individuals, groups and companies whose contributions and support helped make the conference such a success:

Instructors/presenters **Steve Ford**, **Tina Watkins**, **Carol Ehlinger**, **Frank Chmelik**, **Brian Snure**, **Jim Nelson**, **Paul Witt**, **Tom Treves**, **Barb Wills**, **Joe Quinn**, **Larry Rabel** and **Jim Whitt** for sharing their expertise...

Education Committee Chair **Les Riel** and members **Ken Anderson**, **Lee Boling**, **Bob Miller**, **Robert Muhleman**, **Verne Pierson** and **Roy Waugh** for selecting pertinent topics for the conference workshops...

Conference Host Committee Co-Chairs **Ron Shuck** and **A. J. Hill** and the **Tri-County Fire Commissioners Association**, as well as the individual commissioners and districts who graciously welcomed participants with a wonderful reception and assisted with the opening ceremonies...

Sue and **Steve McClintock** for arranging the extra special touches for the Friday night banquet...

Education Committee Members and Commissioners **Ben Cavalli**, **Donald Foster**, **A. J. Hill**, **Larry Howell**, **Richard Kistler**, **Gary Larson**, **Mick McKinley** and **Ralph Rogers** for assisting with introductions and presentations...

Sergeant-at-Arms **Linn "Penny" Dollar, Jr.** and Parliamentarian **William Hansen** for their service and good work on behalf of the association...

Thursday morning breakfast buffet sponsors **Emergency Services Insurance Program** and **Rice, Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning** for an excellent meal, a great conference kick-off and their continued support...

Refreshment break sponsors **L. N. Curtis & Sons**, **Washington Governmental Entity Pool**, **Mercer Health & Benefits** and **Cities Insurance Association of Washington** for their continued support of the WFCA...

Silent Auction Co-Chairs and Coordinators **Lois Hensley**, **Kim Burrus**, **Carmy Buttice**, **Kathy McNulty** and **Janice Langdell** for their work on behalf of the Auction which benefits the Harborview Burn Center...

The conference could not happen without the assistance of all of the above-mentioned individuals and companies, as well as the many fire commissioners, chiefs, secretaries and others who attended. Thank you!

Biography From Page Two



Les Riel

Region 4 Director (2004-05) and then as Vice President (2006-07).

Les has also served the association on the Education Committee (member and chair), Executive Committee (chair), Nominating Committee (member) and the Fire Protection Services Committee (member). He was awarded Honorary Life Membership status in 2006.

A life-long resident of East Valley, Les has co-owned and operated a successful business since 1980. Les and Wanda, his wife of 28 years, have two grown sons.



Steve Lich

STEVE LICH

During the conference in Pasco, Steve Lich was re-elected to his fifth term as Region 5 Director on the WFCB Board. Steve has served as chair and member of the Education Committee as well as chair and member of the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee. He currently represents the WFCB on the statewide E-911 Advisory Committee.

Born and raised in Bellingham, Steve received a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Washington (plus two years of graduate school). A Vietnam veteran, Steve served four years in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of Captain. He was employed by Sea-Land Service for 26 years, retiring as Manager of Tariffs for Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.

Steve started in the fire service in 1961 with Whatcom County FPD 8, and was a member there for over 25 years. During that time, he was a volunteer firefighter, a Lieutenant in charge of training, and served two years as a commissioner. In 1977, he won the gold watch and Captain Cook's Trophy for first place at the Washington State Firefighters' annual fire school.

Steve moved to Camano Island in 1986, joining Island County FPD 1 (Camano Island Fire & Rescue) that same year where he served as volunteer and later commissioner, now in his third term.

Besides serving on his local Board of Commissioners, Steve is the Secretary for the Snohomish and Island County Fire Commissioners' Association.

Steve was awarded Honorary Life Membership status in 1999, and just received his 15-year commissioner service award at the 2007 conference in Pasco.

In retirement, Steve enjoys travel with his wife of 23 years, Peggy, and working on fire district projects.



UPCOMING EVENTS...

- The WFCB 2008 Saturday Seminar Series brochure outlining class topics and locations will be mailed to members in January. Workshops will take place at the Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores (March 15), Campbell's Resort in Chelan (May 31), and Spokane (date TBA). Complete information will also be posted on the WFCB website at www.wfca.wa.gov.
- The 2008 WFCB/WFC Legislative Workshop & Luncheon will be held Thursday, January 24, in Olympia. Information has been mailed to WFCB members and is also available on-line at www.wfca.wa.gov.
- The WFCB 2008 Annual Conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel/Seattle Airport (SeaTac), October 23-25. For room reservations, please call the Doubletree at 1.800.445.9667 (main line is 206.246.8600)—room rate is \$115. The Snure Seminar will take place on Wednesday, October 22 and conference will conclude at noon on the 25th. A complete schedule of events will be mailed to members in August.



Physical Reimbursements

The following was submitted by Brigette Smith, Executive Secretary for the Board for Volunteer Firefighters

Not only was the passage of SHB 2147 a great piece of news, but so was the news that the Board increased the volunteer physical reimbursement rate from \$50 per person to \$100.

The Board asked staff to track the amounts that departments were paying for new volunteer physicals over the course of two months. Staff was able to document that the physicals ranged in price from \$25 to \$500. Board members agreed that it is imperative that departments carefully screen their new volunteers to ensure that volunteers being hired into departments are physically fit and capable of the demands placed on their bodies.

The Board looked at the average cost of physicals and found that it was around \$100. While they understand that the increased amount won't fully cover the cost of some departments' physicals, it is their hope that the additional amount will help to offset some costs and encourage other departments to either begin requiring physicals, or to begin requiring more stringent physicals.

If you are unfamiliar with this service, the Board will pay up to \$100 to ensure that each new firefighter, EMT, or reserve officer has a physical exam to determine if they are fit for duty. If your volunteers have never had a physical, they can begin now. As long as we haven't paid for a physical since they've been with your department, we will still pay up to \$100.

If your volunteer is new to you, but came from a different department where they had a physical, we will still pay for a new one with your department. We know that you often don't have access to those prior records and, even so, many things may have changed since their last physical.

On a final note, we will even pay for a new volunteer physical if your volunteer was granted a leave of greater than six months! Again, we understand that a lot can happen in that time, and members that used to be fit for duty before they leave may no longer be fit once they return.

For more information on how this program works, please contact us at 1.877.753.7318 and we'll help you through the process.

Ads

FOR SALE by Snohomish 28: '95 Internat'l 4700LP series chassis w/Allison AT, EMS Compartment capable of carrying 2 patients (1 on gurney, 1 on bench seat), DT466 230 HP Internat'l dies eng, 10,131 mi, 753 eng hrs, front mntd 750 GPM Hale Pump w/3 discharges, Foam Pro 1001 Foam System w/20 gal foam cell, 500 gal polypropylene booster tank, Code Three lights, intercom system, 2 preconnect cross lays (capable of carrying 200' of 1-3/4" hose), 5 outside compartments w/lots of storage, rear wheel airbag suspension, on board O2 in EMS compartment w/remote electric valve operation, onboard, built-in suction unit. Dist accepting sealed bids until 12/31/07 at: Station 55, 512 Ave A, Index, WA 98256 or mail to PO Box 64, Index, WA 98256. Min bid \$35,000. Sealed bids must be identified as "Rescue/Aid Car Bid". Bids will be opened, announced, and awarded at the first scheduled Snohomish County Fire District 28 Commissioners meeting of 2008 in Index, WA. To view the apparatus or to find out more information, Contact Assistant Chief Ernie Walters at 360.793.0866. The District reserves the right to refuse any or all bids. Vehicle is sold "As is", "Where is" with no warranty expressed or implied.

FOR SALE by Spokane 10: Surplus SCBAs--Radios--Misc items consisting of 54 ISI "Magnum" "Magnum Plus" & "Viking" self contained breathing apparatus, numerous spare bottles & parts, multiple VHF mobile & portable radios (Motorola- Kenwood-Bendix Kings) & other misc items. NOTE: Items may change daily; no guarantee of availability. Submit offer in writing using the "Surplus Property Bid Sheet". Sales "AS IS, WHERE IS" w/o warr of any kind & w/o any statement/implication of cond, fitness for purpose or svc life. Purchaser of any surplus equip assumes full liability for its cond & use & by placement of a bid/offer, agrees to indemnify & hold harmless Spokane 10 from any liabilities or costs whatsoever arising out of the purchase or use of any of the surplus equip. Submittal of bid/offer shall constitute acceptance of these Instructions to Bidders. To acquire a list of items, contact: www.scfd10.org or Spokane 10, Chief Nick Scharff, Box 2199, Airway Heights, WA 99001, Email: nscharff@scfd10.org, Phone: 509.244.2425, Fax: 509.244.2421.

Board From Page One

REGIONAL DIRECTORS (cont.)

Region 3:

Dennis Bjork, Grant 5

Region 5:

Steve Lich, Camano Island Fire & Rescue/Island 1

Region 7:

Robert Skaggs, Graham Fire & Rescue/Pierce 21

Region 9:

Mick McKinley, Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue/Kitsap 1

These individuals join existing WFCB Board Directors Emilio Buttice, Walla Walla 4 (Region 2); Ken Eakin, Yakima 12 (Region 4); Mark Thompson, South King Fire & Rescue (Region 6); and Keith Merritt, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue (Region 8).

Congratulations to those elected to the 2008 WFCB Board of Directors. Board meeting dates for 2008 are posted on the association website (www.wfca.wa.gov, select *Calendar of Events*).

Legislative From Page One

Also, be sure to mark your calendar for the Washington Fire Commissioners Association/ Washington Fire Chiefs legislative workshop and luncheon scheduled for Thursday, January 24 at the state capitol rotunda (Columbia Room) in Olympia. The WFCB will host this year's event; the registration brochure has been distributed to all WFCB members. Happy Holidays to everyone in the WFCB family.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM - 4:30PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT.....LES RIEL • YAKIMA 4
SECRETARY | TREASURER.....BILL GATES • S KING FIRE & RESCUE

DIRECTORS

REGION 1..... SHARON COLBY • SPOKANE 3
REGION 2..... EMILIO BUTTICE • WALLA WALLA 4
REGION 3..... DENNIS BJORK • GRANT 5
REGION 4..... KEN EAKIN • YAKIMA 12
REGION 5..... STEVE LICH • CAMANO ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 6..... MARK THOMPSON • S KING FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 7..... ROBERT SKAGGS • GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 8..... KEITH MERRITT • COWLITZ 2 FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 9..... DAVID WHEELER • PT LUDLOW FIRE & RESCUE
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT..... RICHARD KISTLER • THURSTON 7

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ROGER FERRIS

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF
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ASSOCIATION

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